Gon. O ho, I know the riddle, I will goe. *Enter Edgar*

Edg. If ere your Grace had ſpeech with man ſo poore,
Heare me one word. *Exeunt.*

Alb. Ile ouertake you, ſpeake.

Edg. Before you fight the battell ope this letter,
If you haue victory let the trumpet ſound
For him that brought it, wretched though I ſeeme,
I can produce a champion that will proue
What is auowched there, if you miſcary,
Your buſines of the world hath ſo an end,
Fortune loue you, *Alb.* Stay till I haue read the letter.

Edg. I was forbid it, when time ſhall ſerue let but the Herald
cry, and ile appeare againe. *Exit.*

Alb. Why fare thee well, I will ore-looke the paper.

Enter Edmund.

Baſt. The enemies in vew, draw vp your powers
Hard is the queſſe of their great ſtrength and forces
By diligent diſcouery, but your haſt is now vrg'd on you.

Alb. Wee will greet the time. *Exit.*

Baſt. To both theſe ſiſter haue I ſworne my loue,
Each iealous of the other as the ſting are of the Adder,
Which of them ſhall I take, both one or neither, neither can bee
If both remaine aliue, to take the widdow (inioy'd
Exaſperates, makes mad her ſiſter *Gonorill*,
And hardly ſhall I cary out my ſide
Her husband being aliue, now then we'le vſe
His countenadce for the battaile, which being done
Let her that would be rid of him deuiſe
His ſpeedie taking off, as for his mercy
Which he entends to *Lear* and to *Cordelia*:
The battaile done, and they within our power
Shall neuer ſee his pardon, for my ſtate
Stands on me to defend, not to debate. *Exit.*

Alarum. Enter the powers of France ouer the ſtage, Cordelia with her father in her hand.

Enter Edgar and Gloſter.

Edg. Here father, take the ſhaddow of this buſh
For your good hoaſt, pray that the right may thriue

If

If euer I returne to you againe ile
Gloſt. Grace goe with you ſir.
Edg. Away old man, giue me t
King *Lear* hath loſt, he and his dau
Giue me thy hand, come on.
Gloſt. No farther ſir, a man ma
Edg. What in ill thoughts aga
Their going hence, euen as their c
Ripenes is all come on.

Enter Edmund, with Lear

Baſt. Some officers take them
Vntill their greater pleaſures beſt
That are to cenſure them.
Cor. We are not the firſt who wi
The worſt, for thee oppreſſed Ki
My ſelfe could elſe outfrowne fal
Shall we not ſee theſe daughters, a
Lear. No, no, come lets away t
We two alone will ſing like birds
When thou doſt aske me bleſſing,
And aske of thee forgiuenes, ſo w
And pray, and ſing and tell old ta
At guilded butterflies, and heare
Talke of Court newes, and weele
Who looſes, and who wins, whoſe
And take vpon's the miſtery of th
As if we were Gods ſpies, and we
In a wal'd priſon, packs and ſects
That ebbe and flow bith' Moone.
Baſt. Take them away.
Lear. Vpon ſuch ſacrifices my
The Gods thēſelues throw incen
He that parts vs ſhall bring a bra
And fire vs hence like Foxes, w ip
The good ſhall deuoure em, flea
Ere they ſhall make vs weepe? w
Baſt. Come hither Captaine,
Take thou this note, goe follow t

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *King Lear* (STC 22292) LONDON, 1608 THE BRITISH LIBRARY (C.34.k.18)